In 2nd case of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company, most of the workers resumed work after the company announced increase in salary.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Mission officials are in constant touch with the local Government with regard to the issues of salary of workers, penalizing the employer for violating workers rights and regular inspections of the labour camps to check the living conditions of the workers etc.

Kidnapping of Indian workers in Nigeria

1097. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently three Indian petrochemical workers were kidnapped from Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt by suspected militants;

(b) if so, the reasons of their kidnap and whether they have been traced, so far;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to rescue those Indians from the clutches of militants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir 12 Indian nationals were kidnapped by militants in 2 separate incidents on May 19 and June 1, 2007 in Port Harcourt.

(b) The reason of the kidnapping is the prevalent militancy in the Niger Delta region where militants kidnap expats and Nigerians alike.

(c) and (d) The Mission in collaboration with the local Government and security agencies made extensive efforts to secure the safe release of the Indians kidnapped. They were eventually released on June 11 and June 15, 2007.

Indians in Jails of Gulf countries

1098. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals are languishing in Jails in Gulf countries who are victims of recruitment agencies in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported;

(c) the details of the steps taken for the release of these people; and

(d) the details of steps taken against the fraudulent agencies and to ensure the safety of the emigrants?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegation to European countries

1099. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether delegations under the leadership of the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited European countries;